

## **HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council held as a Virtual Meeting on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 1000 hours.

### **PRESENT:-**

Members:-

Councillor David Downes in the Chair

Councillors Rose Bowler, Dexter Bullock, Anne Clarke (Vice-Chair), Tom Munro, Evonne Parkin and Janet Tait.

Officers:- Amar Bashir (Improvement Officer), Joanne Wilson (Scrutiny & Elections Officer), Amy Bryan (Senior Governance Officer), Tom Scott (Governance Officer) and Liz Robinson (Governance Support Officer).

The Improvement Officer left the meeting during Minute No HEA31-20/21.

Also in attendance at the meeting was Councillor Nick Clarke (Portfolio Holder - Carbon Reduction Efficiencies) and Councillor Deborah Watson (Portfolio Holder - Environmental Health & Licensing).

### **HEA25-20/21      APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Peter Roberts.

### **HEA26-20/21      URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

### **HEA27-20/21      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

### **HEA28-20/21.      MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Tom Munro and seconded by Councillor Anne Clarke.

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of a Healthy Safe Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

### **HEA29-20/21      LIST OF KEY DECISIONS AND ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE**

Committee considered the List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private document.

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Moved by Councillor David Downes and seconded by Councillor Anne Clarke.

**RESOLVED** that the List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private document be noted.

### **HEA30-20/21 CORPORATE AMBITIONS PERFORMANCE UPDATE – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2020 (Q3 2020/21)**

Committee considered a report in relation to the Quarter 3 outturns (October to December 2020) for the Council's Ambition Performance Framework 2020-2024 targets and relevant supporting service indicators.

The summary in the report explained that:

13 targets in total  
8 targets were on track  
1 target achieved previously (ENV 10)  
4 targets had been affected by COVID-19

#### *Service Indicators:*

12 indicators in total  
6 indicators had positive outturns  
5 indicator had been affected by the COVID-19  
1 indicator had a negative outturn

Councillor Tom Munro referred to the voids indicator (CUS.07 - Reduce average re-let times for standard voids to 20 calendar days by March 2021 and maintain thereafter) and hoped that this was a performance area Scrutiny Committees could continue to monitor closely. The Improvement Officer explained that he had flagged this area up to the Head of Property Services & Housing Repairs, and the Head of Property Services & Housing Repairs had replied he would be happy to attend a meeting of the Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee to answer questions on voids if requested.

Councillor Nick Clarke (Portfolio Holder - Carbon Reduction Efficiencies) referred to indicator ENV.01 (Develop an externally facing climate change communication strategy targeting communities and stakeholders by October 2020 and deliver an annual action plan) and the mention in the document of the Carbon Reduction Group having a meeting in January 2021, but he reported that the January 2021 meeting was postponed because of the latest COVID-19 lockdown and the next meeting was scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer explained to Members some of the questions/requests asked about the indicators by the Chair and Vice-Chair during this meeting's pre-meeting were:

#### *Corporate Ambitions*

*ENV01 – we're aware the planned CRG meeting was cancelled with the next one not until March. Is there anything else to update at this point?*

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*ENV02 – Is it possible to get the final figures presented broken down so we can see the difference between buildings, fleet etc.?*

*ENV 03 – Concerned that the staff are permanently on catch-up for the red bin collections. The update notes ongoing staffing issues but it is to clear why they are not using additional agency staff to ensure service is being delivered. Aware that the online reporting system has had glitches when people are reporting to report non-collection. Members feel a response from Wards is required as to why collections are so off track. Members are aware that this is affecting all 3 districts in the contract. Has an assessment been made as to whether the contract is actually deliverable now Chesterfield BC collections are included, as this was not as much of an issue when it was only NEDDC/BDC?*

*CUS06 – What support is available for those at risk of eviction/homelessness during Covid? Are we able to intervene to stop the eviction/take preventative action or can we only support once actually homeless?*

*CUS07 – When reporting is it possible to distinguish between the discrete quarterly figure and the YTD figure? Furthermore the Target is specifically about standard voids – the figures should reflect this. It is suggested that should the service want to report against non-standard voids i.e. majors, this should be done under a separate target so both sets of data can be seen clearly. The commentary predominantly relates to major voids and capital schemes which is not what the target is about.*

*CUS08 – the status on track is misleading as this is a new target to both set up a monitoring system, and then track satisfaction levels. Would it better to split this in to two separate parts?*

*General ENV Health query*

*How are we managing those businesses that are running take away services? Do they require additional certificates? What are they required to do differently in relation to covid to be 'covid-secure'? How do we get a list of those businesses that are compliant so we can track things locally and be aware of businesses that haven't got the correct certificates/systems in place?*

Councillor Nick Clarke responded to the points by stating that a Carbon Emissions report would be going to the Executive, and the bin collection issues were currently being addressed by Executive Members liaising with officers. The Chair thanked Councillor Nick Clarke for these responses as they had addressed some of the points, but the Chair stated he would still like the Joint Head of Street Scene to attend a future meeting to address them as well.

Councillor Deborah Watson (Portfolio Holder - Environmental Health & Licensing) provided more information for the bin collection issues by stating that they were being addressed and the Joint Head of Street Scene would be able to provide specifics, but there was no point in changing the bin collection indicators and targets right now because these were sure to change when the Government decided its upcoming guidance on COVID-19 secure bin collections. She added that no bin collections in the District had been completely missed – rather, some had been late and refuse workers had to catch up on them later.

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Councillor Tom Munro asked if instances of late bin collections (and the reasons for them) had been properly communicated to residents. Councillor Deborah Watson explained that the reasons were outlined in In Touch magazine, and Communications officers were asked to display late collections on the Council website.

Councillor Deborah Watson explained that Environmental Health officers issued COVID-19 secure guidance to all businesses, and a number of inspections had been carried out.

Councillor Tom Munro referred to the sentence in the CUS.08 (Maintain high levels of tenant satisfaction with council housing and associated services) target which stated “we don’t capture customer satisfaction formally at present” and was concerned how this could be marked as ‘on track’ if there wasn’t a system in place to measure it.

The recommendation in the report was moved by Councillor David Downes and seconded by Councillor Anne Clarke.

**RESOLVED** that outturns against the Council’s Ambition 2020-2024 targets and relevant service indicators be noted.

(Information, Engagement and Performance Manager/Improvement Officer)

### HEA31-20/21            SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

*N.B. The Improvement Officer left the meeting at this point.*

Committee considered the Work Programme for 2020/21.

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer explained that attached to the Work Programme were two review scopes for Member approval: a Review of Council Policy on Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons, and a Review of Council Policy on Fireworks.

Councillor Tom Munro asked if consultation with Parish Councils could be included in the consultation for the Fireworks review. The Scrutiny & Elections Officer stated that the exact targets of the consultation would be entirely up to Members once the review began.

Councillor Janet Tait asked if the Fireworks review could consider the Council using silent fireworks for its own displays. The Scrutiny & Elections Officer stated that the possibility of doing this would be investigated.

The recommendations in the report to note the Work Programme and approve the draft review scopes were moved by Councillor David Downes and seconded by Councillor Tom Munro.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee:

(i) Notes this report and the Programme attached at Appendix 1.

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(ii) Approves the review draft scopes attached at Appendices 2 and 3 so the Reviews can commence.

(Scrutiny & Elections Officer)

The meeting concluded at 1043 hours.